Message Text

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43

ORIGIN AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 /069 R

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DRAFTED BY USDA/FAS:JBESHOAR APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:SPOLANSKY AGRIC:ERBEVIS JMINYARD, FAS(IN DRAFT) JBKAY, USDC(BY PHONE) SBROWN, FAS EUR/SOV-MR COLBERT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS STATE 160229

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAGR, EIND

SUBJECT: SOVIET INTEREST IN BABY FOOD PRODUCTION

- 1. US-USSR AGREEMENTS SECRETARIAT AT USDA HAS HAD SEVERAL CALLS FROM INDUSTRY REGARDING SOVIET INTEREST IN OBTAINING TECHNOLOGY FOR PRODUCTION OF PREPARED BABY FOODS. SEVERAL MONTHS AGO REPRESENTATIVES OF GERBERS VISITED MOSCOW AT INVITATION OF STATE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. THEIR CONTACT IN MOSCOW WAS A MR. BERDENNIKOV, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS. SOVIETS SEEMED INTERESTED AND TOLD GERBER INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT FRANK MEYERS THAT THEY WANTED TO SEND TEAM OF TWELVE TO US FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS AND ORIENTATION ON APPLICABLE TECHNOLOGY.
- 2. A MR. DEGRAMONT OF SOFRCP, A FRENCH FIRM (WITH BANK OF AMERICA PARTICIPATION), WHICH HAS OFFICES IN MOSCOW, HAS INFORMED GERBERS SOVIETS WISH TO SEND TEAM UNDER US-USSR AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION THIS FALL. USDA HAS NO UNCLASSIFIED

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KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH A PROJECT UNDER THE AGREEMENT AND SUSPECTS

THIS IS MISUNDERSTANDING ON PART OF SOFRCP.

- 3. GERBERS PREPARED TO RECEIVE SOVIETS AS COMMERCIAL VISITORS AND PROVIDE RESPONSIVE PROGRAM COORDINATED WITH CONTINENTAL CAN, FMC AND OWENS GLASS. HOWEVER, GERBERS MUST HAVE FULL INFORMATION ON SOVIET TEAM WITHIN NEXT WEEK OR TWO OR THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RECEIVE SOVIETS UNTIL AFTER JAN. 1. SOFRCP COMMUNICATION IMPLIED GERBERS WOULD BE EXPECTED TO PAY SOVIETS' EXPENSES IN US. WE DOUBT THAT THIS IS SOVIET INTENT AND GERBERS, OF COURSE, WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE PREPARED TO MAKE SUCH A SIZEABLE FRONT END EXPENDITURE FOR TENUOUS POTENTIAL SALE. GERBERS IS WILLING, OF COURSE, TO BE GOOD HOST AND PROVIDE NORMAL COURTESIES.
- 4. REQUEST EMBASSY SEEK CLARIFICATION OF SOVIET INTENTIONS AND INFORM USDA AND COMMERCE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: FOODS, AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENTS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 24 JUL 1974 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Authority: n/a Disposition Case Number: n/a

Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:

Document Number: 1974STATE160229
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: JBESHOAR Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D740200-0282

From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740721/aaaaarso.tel Line Count: 77

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ORIGIN AGR Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: n/a Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: cunninfx

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 04 OCT 2002

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 OCT 2002 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <17 JAN 2003 by cunninfx>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: SOVIET INTEREST IN BABY FOOD PRODUCTION

TAGS: EAGR, EIND, UR, US, SOFRCP

To: MOSCOW

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005